

THANKS CHEEKY PANDAS The Birthday Gift

Key Learning: Every good and perfect gift comes from God.

'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.'

James 1:17

Session Outline

1. Informal welcome as families arrive

2. Official welcome

Introduce the title, theme, and all members of your team to all present, including the person to contact if they have technical issues, questions or concerns.

Outline what will happen during this session, how long it will take, and the key learning for today's session.

Ensure they have any resources needed for the activity in the video.

3. Opening prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for this beautiful day. We thank you for our friends, family and for countless other things you provide for us every day. Please help us to listen to the message you want us to hear today.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen

Saint of the Day

St Gianna A young mother of three children, she decided to follow Jesus from her youth. She regarded her work as a doctor to be her mission. When expecting her fourth child, there were complications with her pregnancy. However, she decided to put the life of her child before her own and asked that any treatment cared primarily for her child. Her daughter was born fit and well, but she did not survive the birth. At her death she repeated, 'Jesus, I love you!'

You will need...

- Video
- A birthday present that you love to show to participants
- Presentation for Prayer



4. Warm-up activity

Invite the children who have brought a birthday present to hold it up to the camera. Ask one or two of them to tell us about their present and how they felt when they received it.

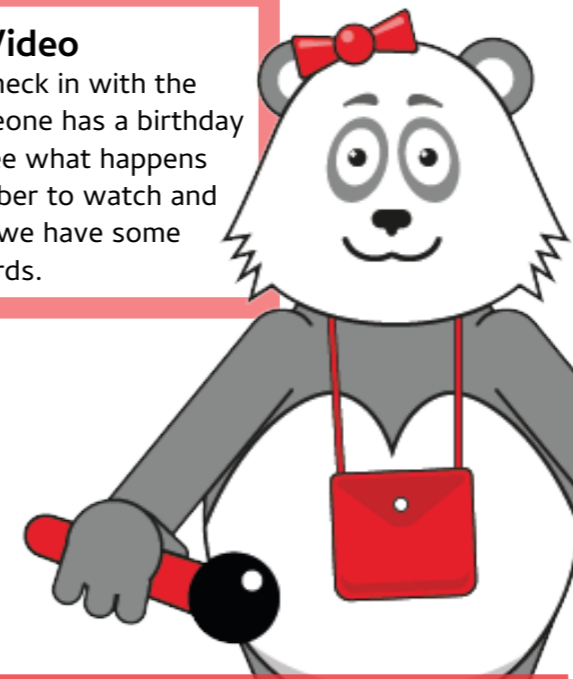
5. Saint of the day

Today's saint was a mother who gave up everything for her children. She loved them so much. She also knew how to thank God in good times and when things didn't go the way she hoped. She said:

'The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness.'

6. Watch Video

We are going to check in with the Pandas now. Someone has a birthday coming up; let's see what happens this week. Remember to watch and listen carefully as we have some questions afterwards.



7. Group discussion

After the video, help the children explore the theme through using the following questions:

- Why is it so important to be thankful?
- Can you think of a time when you were grateful?
- What difference does it make when we thank God?

If you have enough facilitators this can be done in smaller groups, using multiple rooms. However, if this is not possible, you can also ask people to respond via the chat, then ask them to tell you a little more.

8. Family challenge

Encourage the families present to talk about today's session using the following questions:

- What did you learn from today?
- What questions do you have?
- What happens when we are grateful, even in difficult times?

You may want to offer to send this out via email after the session.

9. Parish announcements

We would love to see you at the following events/services:

Sunday Mass at _____am/pm or online via:_____

Next week our session is called 'The Missing Pizza' where we will learn the important of saying sorry. You are welcome to bring a snack and a friend next week.

10. Closing prayer

Begin with the Sign of the Cross
Prayer Intention: Today we pray for a grateful heart that thanks God for all the gifts we receive and has the Holy Spirit to help us to see the many things we can thank God for in our lives.

Our Father - Hail Mary - Glory be

Leader: St Gianna,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mary, help of Christians,

All: Pray for us.

Finish with the Sign of the Cross